

1. (ORIGINAL) A protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 26 or SEQ ID NO: 52, or a salt thereof.
2. (ORIGINAL) A protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or a salt thereof.
3. (ORIGINAL) A protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26, or a salt thereof.
4. (ORIGINAL) A protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 52, or a salt thereof.
5. (ORIGINAL) The protein according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence as an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 52 is an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 54.
6. (ORIGINAL) A protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 54, or a salt thereof.
7. (ORIGINAL) A partial peptide of the protein according to claim 1, or a salt thereof.
8. (AMENDED) A polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide encoding the protein according to claim 1 or the partial peptide thereof ~~according to claim 7~~.
9. (ORIGINAL) The polynucleotide according to claim 8, which is DNA.

10. (ORIGINAL) A polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 53 or SEQ ID NO: 55.
11. (ORIGINAL) A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 8.
12. (ORIGINAL) A transformant transformed with the recombinant vector according to claim 11.
13. (AMENDED) A method of manufacturing the protein or its salt having an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 26 or SEQ ID NO: 52 ~~according to claim 1~~ or the partial peptide or its salt ~~according to claim 7~~, which comprises culturing the transformant according to claim 12, forming and accumulating said the protein ~~according to claim 1~~ or the partial peptide thereof ~~according to claim 7~~, and recovering it.
14. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical comprising the protein according to claim 1 or the partial peptide thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent ~~according to claim 7~~.
15. (ORIGINAL) A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 8.
16. (ORIGINAL) A diagnostic agent comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 8.
17. (AMENDED) An antibody to the protein according to claim 1, the partial peptide thereof ~~according to claim 7~~, or a salt of the protein or partial peptide.
18. (ORIGINAL) A diagnostic agent comprising the antibody according to claim 17.

19. (ORIGINAL) A pharmaceutical comprising the antibody according to claim 17.
20. (ORIGINAL) A polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary or substantially complementary to that of the polynucleotide according to claim 8 or a part of the nucleotide sequence.
21. (ORIGINAL) A diagnostic agent comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 20.
22. (ORIGINAL) A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 20.
23. (AMENDED) A method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of ~~the~~ a protein or its salt according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its salt thereof ~~according to claim 7~~, which comprises using ~~the~~ said protein or its salt ~~according to claim 1~~ or the partial peptide or its salt ~~according to claim 7~~ thereof, in a screening assay.
24. (AMENDED) A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of ~~the~~ a protein or its salt according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its salt thereof ~~according to claim 7~~, which comprises ~~the~~ said protein or its salt ~~according to claim 1~~ or the partial peptide or its salt ~~according to claim 7~~ thereof.
25. – 26. (Canceled)
27. (AMENDED) A method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the expression of a gene for the protein having an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 26 or SEQ ID NO: 52

~~according to claim 1~~, which comprises using the polynucleotide according to claim 8.

28. (AMENDED) A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the expression of a gene for the protein having an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 26 or SEQ ID NO: 52

~~according to claim 1~~, which comprises the polynucleotide according to claim 8.

29. - 30. (Canceled)

31. (AMENDED) A method of quantifying the protein having an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 26 or SEQ ID NO: 52

~~according to claim 1~~, which comprises using the antibody according to claim 17.

32. (AMENDED) A method of diagnosing diseases associated with the function of the protein having an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 26 or SEQ ID NO: 52 ~~according to claim 1~~, which comprises using the quantification method according to claim 31.

33. (AMENDED) A method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the expression of the protein having an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 26 or SEQ ID NO: 52 ~~according to claim 1~~, which comprises using the antibody according to claim 17.

34. (AMENDED) A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the expression of the protein having an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 26 or SEQ ID NO: 52 ~~according to claim 1~~, which comprises the antibody according to claim 17.

35. – 36. (Canceled)
37. (AMENDED) The pharmaceutical according to claim 14, ~~15, 19, 22, 26, 30 or 36~~, which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for renal diseases.
38. (AMENDED) A method of preventing/treating renal diseases, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound, or salt thereof, that promotes or inhibits the activity of the protein according to claim 1, or a partial peptide or salt thereof, ~~the compound according to claim 25, 29 or 35 or a salt thereof~~ to a mammalian animal in need thereof.
39. (AMENDED) ~~Use of the compound according to claim 25, 29 or 35 or a salt thereof in producing~~ A method for making a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for treating or preventing renal disease comprising combining a compound, or salt thereof, that promotes or inhibits the activity of the protein according to claim 1, or a partial peptide or salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.
40. (NEW) The pharmaceutical according to claim 15 which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for renal diseases.
41. (NEW) The pharmaceutical according to claim 19 which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for renal diseases.
42. (NEW) The pharmaceutical according to claim 22 which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for renal diseases.